

CLAUS RITTENHOUSE HOME, OUTBUILDING

HABS No. PA-16-A

(Claus Rittenhouse Home, Workshop)

207A Lincoln Drive, Fairmount Park (~~changed from Lincoln Drive and Rittenhouse Street~~)

City of Philadelphia

Philadelphia County

Pennsylvania

HABS

PA

51-GERM,

78A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Revised Copies of MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Northeast Area Office

National Park Service

U.S. Custom House

200 Chestnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106

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The new record name reflects the historic name of the structure.

Location: 207A Lincoln Drive, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

USGS Germantown, Pennsylvania Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
18.483770.4430825

Significance: This building is one of the earliest surviving structures constructed by German-speaking people in the State of Pennsylvania. The building and site possess exceptional significance as an industrial community and for the association to various members of the Rittenhouse family. The site is an important industrial community whose history spans the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries and is the core of an industrial village that once included over forty industrial, agricultural, institutional and domestic structures.

Description: The small unidentified building adjacent to the main house is believed to have been constructed prior to the mid-18th century, possibly between 1707 and 1725. The building is a one room, one and one half story masonry structure with steep roof, excavated cellar and massive fireplace with an exterior bake oven projecting from the rear of the fireplace. The building also contains casement windows which have been determined to likely have held diamond pane quarrels set in lead comes which in turn were supported by wooden frames. The small outbuilding is important for its historical association with the earliest surviving buildings of the site as well as for its architectural merit. As an early and rare ancillary structure, the building adds significantly to completing the picture of domestic life in early America as witnessed at Rittenhouse Town.

History: Physical evidence and comparison with dated regional structures concluded that the outbuilding dates to between 1725-1735. This outbuilding is located to the northeast of the Claus Rittenhouse Home, one of the earliest surviving buildings at Rittenhouse Town. The original function of this outbuilding is unknown, yet it is evident that it was originally associated with the Claus Rittenhouse Home.

Sources: Noble, Timothy M., Noble Preservation Services, Inc. "The 1707 Claus Rittenhouse Home and the c1730 Unidentified Outbuilding, Historic Rittenhouse Town, Historic Structures Report." March 29, 1996.

Historian: Timothy M. Noble, May 1996.